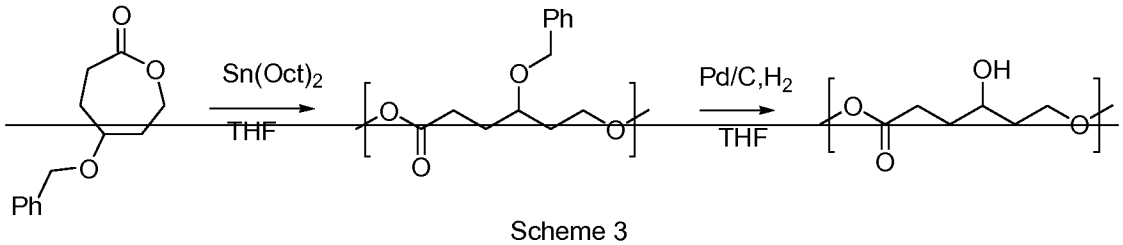
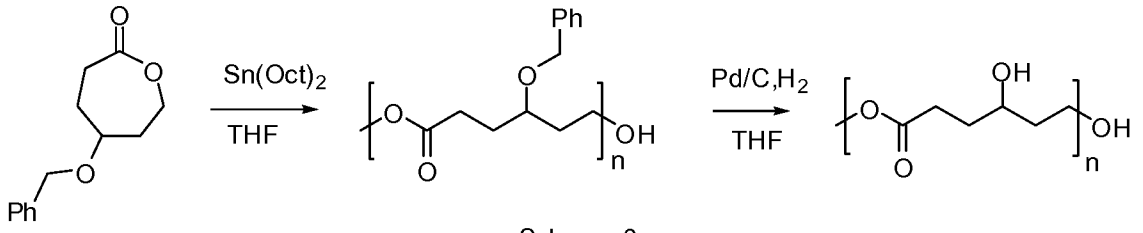
Amendments to the Specification

On page 14, please replace the last paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Monomers bearing a protected reactive functionality can undergo polymerization alone or copolymerization with other comonomers to form polymers or copolymers bearing protected functionalities. For example, the substituted ε-caprolactone and β-butyrolactone can be copolymerized with glycolide, lactide, or an oxirane such as butyrolactone, valerolactone, or caprolactone to form a polymer or copolymer with different compositions. In one embodiment, a benzyl protected caprolactone can polymerize in the presence of a catalyst such as dioctylstannane ($Sn(Oct)_2$) to yield a polycaprolactone with benzyl protected hydroxyl groups. The benzyl groups can be cleaved off under acidic conditions to generate free hydroxyl groups (Scheme 3).



Scheme 3



Scheme 3